III. The proceedings of the Assembly commenced at 12 noon on the 21st February 1916. Dewan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nair Esquire, B. A. & B. L., the Dewan, presided. There were present R. A. Graham Esquire, I. C. S., the Resident in Travancore and Cochin; T. Austin Esquire, I. C. S., the Assistant Resident; K. Raman Menon Esquire, B. A., B. L., B. C. L., Bar-at-law, the Chief Justice, and other heads of departments and offices and several non-official gentlemen.

IV. The Dewan opened the Assembly with the following

ADDRESS.

"*Gentlemen,*

PRELIMINARY.

Under command of His Highness the Maha Raja, it is my pleasing duty to-day to welcome you to the Twelfth Session of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly. Copies of the Administration Report for 1090 M. E., in English and Malayalam, will, as usual, be placed in your hands, from which you will learn in detail how the administration of the State was conducted during the year.

2. The great war in Europe still continues and shows no signs of an immediate ending. Great Britain and her Allies are united in purpose. Their determination not to pause or falter, until they have secured for the whole world emancipation from the reign of force, is the best guarantee of assured success in the end. His Highness the Maha Raja has been paying a monthly contribution towards the maintenance of the Hospital Ship "Madras". Following the noble example of His Highness, many officers of His Highness' Government, drawing a salary of Rs. 150 and above per mensem, are also contributing towards the same object. I gladly convey to these officers the cordial acknowledgments of His Highness' Government for their generous support of this worthy cause.

3. Under the kind patronage of His Excellency the Governor, an Exhibition of the artistic and industrial products of Southern India was organised in combination with the annual Park Fair in Madras, the proceeds being devoted to the War Fund. His Highness the Maha Raja gave his cordial support to the movement. A local committee was appointed for the collection and transmission of suitable exhibits from the State. The Exhibition was, from all accounts, an unqualified success and I am glad to inform you that the exhibits from Travancore received their due share of appreciation.

4. It will also be of interest to you to learn that His Highness' Government have permitted six European officers of the State to go on military duty, and that they have been granted the same concessions as their compeers in British India.

5. In April 1915/Medam 1090, His Highness the Maha Raja left Trivandrum for a short stay in Coonoor. In July 1915/Mithunam 1090, at the invitation of His Highness, His Highness the Maha Raja Gaekwar of Baroda, accompanied by Her Highness the Maha Rani, paid a visit to Travancore.

PERSONNEL.

6. Since the last session of the Assembly, there have not been many changes in the higher ranks of the public service. Towards the close of 1090, Dr. A. W. Bishop, Director of Public Instruction, proceeded to Europe on leave, preparatory to retirement. He served the Government faithfully for a period of 21 years. His broad-minded sympathy inspired confidence and enthusiasm in the department. His Highness' Government have great pleasure in placing on record their high appreciation of his arduous and valuable services in the cause of education in general and elementary education in particular. Mr. F. S. S. George, Commissioner of Police, a hard-working and conscientious officer, reverted to the British service, on the completion of five years in the State service. Mr. A. Krishna Aiyangar, B. A., District and Sessions Judge, retired into private life on a well-earned pension, after a service of over 24 years.

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